SOME

THOUGHTS

Worthy the ſerious Attention of the

Greateſt MEN,

ON THE

Woollen Manufacturies

OF

ENGLAND, &c.

THE pernicious Conſequences have almoſt overtaken this once moſt flouriſhing Nation, and brought to the Brink of Deſtruction, as to Exporting our Manufacturies, and thereby *Engliſh* Labour, whilſt our Poor are burthenſome in their reſpective Pariſhes, and want Bread, though cheap Proviſions are; our Navigation's crampt, inſtead of encouraged; his Majeſty's Reve-

nues ſunk, and Foreigners enlarged by Woollen Manufacturies, which they never could make without the Help of our *Britiſh* or *Iriſh* Wool, that we may have a more perfect View of the Means and Time this Deſtruction gained Advantage, which now they have almoſt effected. It's moſt neceſſary all Well-wiſhers to his Majeſty, or the Freehold and Happineſs of *England*, caſt an Eye on the following Abſtracts, taken out of the Cuſtom-Houſe Books of *Ireland*, which I have exactly inſerted towards the latter End of this Treatiſe, begging all my Readers to excuſe the Style delivered in plain Truths; 'tis not for any Advantage I propoſe from the Preſs, but with much Regret I expoſe myſelf thus in publick Print, but on the contrary to throw 50 *l.* more away by myſelf, of my own Money, if happily I could ſhew thoſe Honourable Perſons in ſo clear a Light as I ſee they could yet ſave themſelves and Nation from this Deſtruction brought on us by giving up this moſt valuable and inriching Branch of Trade, the Woollen Manufacturies to Foreigners, 'twould bring the moſt laſting Honour to their Names, to the lateſt of Poſterity. It's not Advantage by the Preſs I ſeek, but to have an effectual Stop to Exporting Wool. I never will ſeek to be a Gainer, I ſhould be glad I, and the reſt of my Brethren, could live by our own Trade again in the Woollen Manufactury, nor have I done as commonly is; I, in my Projection, neither reſerved Place or Profit to myſelf; but in Duty and Love to his Majeſty, the Wealth and Power of the Nation's Trade; but knowing the Imperfection of my Style and Performance, beg my Readers to accept it, and put Amendments to it, with as ſincere Deſire for his Majeſty, and Nation's Trade and Welfare, as I have in penning it; but if it ſhould fall into the Hands of Enemies to *England*, let it ſatisfy them, I know my Defects before they tell me of them, and it ſhall fully ſatisfy me if thereby I may be a poor Inſtrument, through our truly Wiſe and Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain*, when in Parliament aſſembled, to defeat this pernicious and deſtructive Practice of Exporting our Wool till manufactured, that *England* may

may regain her antient Trade, Wealth and Power, who am a hearty Well-wisher thereto, whilst

Samuel Webber.

THE Benefit arising by Trade is so interwoven with the Interest of States, that 'tis the indispensable Duty of the greatest Men to enquire into the true Condition of it; and we were formerly sensible of the Benefit *England* obtained by her general Commerce; and our Ancestors thought it incumbent on them to pursue all proper Means for its Preservation, knowing the mutual Dependance one Trade has upon another, and saw how necessary it was for this Nation, whose Happiness and Liberties are supported by the Riches and Power acquired by Manufacturies, Traffick and Navigation, to defend and encourage every Branch of it, lest the Loss of any Particular might break the Chain of Commerce, and render designing Neighbours to supplant us therein; but above all, we should acquaint ourselves well of the Woollen Manufacturies to the general Interest of this Kingdom, which if we wish well to, we should with Shame cast an Eye on the great Improvements made therein by some of our Neighbours, who are more than Rivals to us in this most valuable Trade, and all *England*'s Friends will readily agree, that the speediest Means, as we are on the Brink of Ruin, ought to be used to recover these Branches of our Traffick, which are impaired by our former Conduct, and need no Apology for this Treatise, on a Subject wherein the Interest and Freehold of *England* is so nearly concerned, as we know our Neighbours cannot make these several Species of Woollen Goods, *viz.* the several Sorts of middling Broad Cloaths, Druggets, Ratteens, Rattenets, Serges, Durants, Duroys, Harateens, Shalloons, Long Ells, Bostics, Camblets, Callamanco's, Poplins, *Norwich* Crapes, Tammies, Crapes and Stuffs of all Kinds for Womens Apparels, Flannels, Stockings, and several Species of Woollen Goods, which they could not make without the Help of our *British* or *Irish* Wool; but one Pack of our Wool enables them to work up two of their own coarse hairy Trash; which, of itself, would make no better

Goods of Assortments than an ordinary Cloath, Serge, or a Bay; but with Help of one of our *British* or *Irish* Wool mix'd with two Packs of theirs, fills and gluts Foreign Markets; and every Pack they have from us, hinders *England* selling three Packs manufactured.

THIS unhappy Miscarriage is somewhat owing to that Conduct of breaking our *English* Army abroad, at the Peace of *Reswick*, when our Soldiers, as many of them as were bred in the Manufactury, left destitute for Want of Bread, and but a Year or two before Addresses and Petitions to the King and both Houses of Parliament, beseeching his Majesty to take effectual Means to prevent the Growth of the Woollen Manufacturies in *Ireland*, and to turn the Industry of that People to Improvement of the Linen Manufacturies, promising them Favour and Protection.

HEREUPON the Commons of *Ireland*, enclined to satisfy *England* in this Matter, form'd a Bill of Four Shillings on the Value of Twenty Shillings of Woollen Goods manufactured, to be exported between the 25th of *March*, 1699, and the 25th of *March*, 1702. Then there was an Act of Parliament pass'd in *England*, in the Year 1699, prohibiting the Importation of Woollen Manufacturies from *Ireland* to any other Place; but the few Wool Ports of *England*, and such Importations left liable to Duties laid on manufactured Goods, by Acts antecedent to this I talk of, that Part of the Woollen Manufacturies *England*'s Legislature was willing to allow the *Irish*, became impracticable; we subverted the Woollen Manufacturies of *Ireland*, but at the same Time rose more formidable Enemies to our *English* Manufacturies, the *French* taking hold of this Opportunity of our Soldiers broke, aforesaid, at the Peace of *Reswick*, encouraged them; and again, the Opportunities they took by these Acts to deprive the *Irish* Manufacturies, the *French* encouraged them to comb Wool once over, and skrew'd into Casks Ballast, with Shot covered over with Butter, and enter'd for Butter, the *Irish* being deprived of their Manufacturies, and Numbers knew no other

Way

Way to get Bread, they choſe ſome, though but ſmall Part of Manufacturing, their Wool, then none at all. At this Time I was Apprentice, my Maſter had a Hand therein, Captain *Rodgers*, Mr. *Martin*, Mr. *Sherburn* and Mr. *Felton*, whom many in this City knew, though often detected; few but what was broke thereby, I knew none but *Martin* eſcape that Fate. A Curſe followed, and will in the End all thoſe Smugglers, who would build their Fortunes in the Diſſolution of ſo brave a Nation as once *England* was.

THE War ſoon after breaking out, the *French* were at a Loſs for Want of our *Britiſh* or *Iriſh* Wool; and in the Year 1703, I was out of my Apprenticeſhip, and had Dealings of my own pretty large to *Barnſtable By-the-Ford*, &c. and I did not diſcern the *French* had much Wool from us; *England* having the Cloathing of the known World to themſelves, except thoſe they were in War with, Wool ſold well; but in Proceſs of Time, through Covetouſneſs and Careleſſneſs of the Captains of her Majeſty's Ships ſtation'd for Convoy, they'd pretend Want of one Thing or another, 'till a Purſe was made up, and let many fair Winds blow over to the great Loſs of the fair Trader, as well as *England*, I perceived after; for we ſhould have *Iriſh* Papiſh Merchants freight with Wool clear'd out of the Cuſtom as fair as myſelf, not ſtay a Tide for Convoy, but as they'd ſay, venture the Run. I often or always heard they were taken by the *French* Privateers, ſoon back, and tell us they bought off the Veſſel, and ſo go on again, and taken by my Way of Dealing. I know their Circumſtance, had there been no more in it 'twould have broke them.

SOON after, in the Year 1709, I diſcovered this Piece of Roguery; I dealt in Company with a Merchant; once being diſappointed of a Freight, told me of Smuggling Wool to *France*, very advantageous: I ſeem'd to hearken with Attention to what he had to ſay. I anſwer'd, I thought there would be great Danger and Riſque. He anſwer'd, as he thought I would comply none at all, for he could have the *French* King's Paſs, from a Perſon whoſe

Name I don't call to Mind, who, as I remember, he ſaid liv'd in *Edinburgh*, for 3 *l.* and if met by a Privateer, not produce it, but keep it hid in the Well, or Part of the Ship, 'till brought into *France*, ſo make them Convey us into Harbour in *France*, ſaying otherwiſe, we may be deceived by *Jerſey* or *Guernſey* Privateers. This made plain to me thoſe forementioned Smugglers venturing to Run, how they went on. Soon after, he and I was done dealing in Company, I rejected his Offer, and declare I never did, but do defy the moſt Malicious to ſay I ever ſent an Ounce of Wool to *France*.

BUT to return; this was but ſmall Game *France* could play at, to what ſome Time after I obſerved; Deſtruction came in upon us like a Torrent. About the Year 1717, 'twas very viſible both in *England* as well as *Ireland*, our Woollen Manufacturies declined a-pace; Poverty and Bankrupts on every Side; that I know that little Town of *Taunton* is 80,000 *l.* poorer in the Manufactureis within theſe 20 Years; and other Places in Proportion I can name, but that little Time the Plague raged in *France*; but as ſoon as that was over Wool began a Run to *France*, as open almoſt as if licenſed and cleared out of his Majeſty's Cuſtom-Houſe.

I knew a riding Officer, one *Joſias Thompſon*, in *Ireland*, ſeized a Ship lading or loaded with Wool, and ventured his Life; made a great Noiſe at the Cuſtom-Houſe at *Dublin*; petitioned here to *London*; was broke for his Care, and render'd incapable of ſerving his Majeſty. That you may have the more perfect View, pleaſe to caſt your Eye on the following Abſtracts taken out of the Cuſtom-Houſe Books of *Ireland*.

Abſtract

Abſtract of the Exports of Wool and Yarn for four Years, *viz.*	Wool Stones at 18 l.	Yarn Stones at 18 l.	Tot. of Wool and Yarn.	Abſtract for theſe four Years, *viz.*	Wool Stones at 18 l.	Yarn Stones at 18 l.	Tot. of Wool and Yarn.
1700	336292	26617	362909	1726	51371	87261	138632
1701	302812	23390	326201	1727	58182	72047	130229
1702	315473	43648	359121	1728	49784	80428	130212
1703	360862	36873	397735	1729	38667	91854	130521
Tot. this four Years.	1315439	130528	1445976	Tot. this four Years.	198004	331590	529594

So that 'tis plain we give up to Foreigners, by Connivance or Indolence, these last four Years mentioned, then in the fore-mentioned four Years of Queen *Anne*'s Reign 916,382 Stones of Wool and Yarn at 18 *l. per* Stone, besides what is smuggled, as I before obsery'd, the Time of Queen *Anne*'s Reign; but this Quantity in this four Years, on a reasonable Avarage, at Three Shillings *per* Pound Workmanship to manufacture it, amounts to 2474231 *l.* 8 *s.* Sterling. *N. B.* In a Fleece of Wool of four Pound Weight, we make a hard Bargain, if we have eight Ounces such Coarse Nature to make such ordinary Goods of Three Shillings *per* Pound manufacturing; but the greater Part by far comes to 10 *s. per* Pound manufacturing: For the Truth of which I appeal to any experienced Tradesman, to whom this small Book shall come.

But, by my Scheme projected of a General Registry, I would defy the craftiest Smuggler to get off after that Manner I mentioned; they run it in Queen *Anne*'s Reign out of Creeks, or pretending to be taken by Privateers, or the Foreign Powers Pass; and would humbly beg our truly wise Legislature to take it under their most serious Consideration, as they value the freehold and happy Constitution we have so long enjoy'd, purchas'd by the Blood of our Fore-Fathers, to give up this valuable Trade no longer to Foreigners, who want not Will, but Power to effect our Ruin. But if the above Estimate was exactly look'd into, we should find our Loss four Times more than the above Sums. His Majesty's Revenues are thereby lessen'd, if seriously consider'd; the Landed Interest suffers as well as the Trading; tho' they don't so sensibly feel it; for its those vast Numbers employ'd by Trade, consumes the greatest Part of Provisions, when employ'd; and I dare hazard the Reputation of my Judgment, if Wool give Current above Six Pounds *per* Pack this Year, which they might more easily have 12 *l. per* Pack if we stopp'd our Wool, as soon as Foreigners are out of those Stocks they have had from us; but the greatest Obstacle now arising, is to know how to get *Ireland* to comply with a Registry, any one who ever read

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or weigh'd my Scheme, lodg'd with the Honourable Committee in Parliament, ſees how, and yet in a little Time leſſen *Ireland*'s Manufacturies, with their own Conſent; but at preſent there muſt be ſome Encouragement given them, and I humbly conceive it's *England*'s Intereſt, to tread back thoſe Steps, which have almoſt prov'd our Ruin, not thereby Meaning to allow the Exportations of Woollen Manufacturies from *Ireland* to any other Parts but to *England*, on the contrary, as is in my Scheme hereafter ſet forth.

THE Advantages ariſing from the Woollen Manufacturies, are what is *England*'s Intereſt, and by ſuch Encouragement given, *Ireland*, as by my Scheme, would recover this moſt valuable Trade out of the Hands of Foreigners, by granting ſuch Favour to them in *Ireland*, they are our Fellow Subjects, many are *Engliſhmen*, and *Engliſhmen*'s Children; our Brethren tranſplanted, as good Subjects as we, and we ought not to grudge it them, only on an imaginary baſe ſelfiſh Intereſt, it's no more, or better, for it's but imaginary, for in three Years Time on Return of Trade,

WHEN the Demand is on *England* for the Cloathing of the known World, there will be Buſineſs enough for every Manufacturer in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and more muſt be bred in it. There was great Miſrepreſentations of us in purſuing this Regſtry by a Charter, not only by Perſons of Note, but alſo by ſome emptier Men in our Trade; as if we meant to monopolize the Trade of *Great Britain*, &c. many uſing at ſeveral Times unbecoming Speeches; tho' we own thoſe Men in Trade of Account who intruſted us in their Letters, and otherwiſe; thankfully acknowledged, which would have been little enough, as we always carried it on at our own Expence: That's one Motive made us print and publiſh our Scheme lodg'd this Seſſions, to ſhew the World how far we were from any baſe or private View therein, but our chief Aim was to keep our Wool to be manufactured at home, as well for his Majeſty, and Nation's Trade and Intereſt, knowing thereby we ſhould enjoy a Share in common with our Brethren in Trade, for a Charter without a Regiſtry

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to ſtop exporting our Wool, I would not ſpend Six-pence thereafter; for as Trade is now in this Ruinous Condition, it's Charter enough: I know no Man ſo mad, as to put his Son Apprentice to it, I ſpeak for myſelf, if I had ten Sons fit to go Apprentice, and ten Men in the Woollen Manufacturies, and the ten Men give me Fifty Pounds a-piece to let my Boys go Apprentice to the Trade of a Manufacturer, as 'tis now, they ſhould not have one of them, tho' when I went Apprentice 'twas common to give Sixty and a Hundred Pounds with a Boy, and thoſe Aſperſions puts me upon, before I write the Scheme, which we lodg'd in the Hands of the Honourable Committee this preſent Seſſion of Parliament, which is Word for Word as follows: After this our Vindication from thoſe Calumnies caſt upon us, that the World may ſee thereby, neither of us deſired Place or Office, ſo we could but have it granted effectually to ſtop Wool 'till manufactur'd.

PUBLISHED in the Vindication of the Perſons concerned, recommended and intruſted by the Manufacturers of *Great Britain*, to petition his Majeſty for a univerſal Charter, for the Woollen Manufacturies, thereby, to prevent exporting our *Britiſh* and *Iriſh* Wool, and Woollen Goods compleatly manufactured in *Ireland* to Foreigners, without making an Officer more in the Revenue, or putting his Majeſty, or the Nation, to any Charge, in the faithful Purſuit thereof; we can appeal to his Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State's Office, where we found much Favour; after to his Majeſty's Attorney General's Office, and to our truly Wiſe the Honourable the Commons in *Great Britain* in Parliament aſſembled, this preſent Seſſions, as well as formerly, who know our Proceedings therein, and will in Honour acquit us, and own we projected our Scheme in Trade, and not Officers, to clear us of thoſe Aſperſions aroſe, 'twas at the Requeſt of Trade theſe Years paſt we purſued it at our own Charge; tho' an honoured Perſon told us, the Truſt would be thought too great to repoſe in Trade, and at the ſame Time, own'd no other Way but a general Regiſtry, would ſtop exporting our Wool to Foreigners; and we would appeal to the whole Trade

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and every Man of Senſe, whether 'tis not more than probable, that Tradeſmen can beſt judge, what one Countries Wool waſte more than others in manufacturing; and whether their Intereſt, being ſo near concerned, with the Aſſiſtants of the Heads of the Pariſh and Trade, would not engage them, much more than Officers, mov'd, by no other Motive than a Salary, beſides the intolerable Oppreſſion 'twould expoſe Trade to, and great Expence to pay ſuch Numbers of Officers 'twould require; others move we are deſigning Men: We beg our Scheme may anſwer for us, our Characters in Dealing will, whether we did not pray that every Maſter Regiſter ſhould, within his Liberty, have the ſame Authority as we deſir'd for ourſelves; our Deſign was to promote his Majeſty's Intereſt and Nation's Trade by ſtopping Wool till manufactured; and the Projector thereof can add farther, by Promotion of Trade, to put a Million of Pounds Sterling in four Months after Enacted, into his Majeſty's Treaſury, without Loan or Lottery, and take off other burthenſome Taxes the Nation groans under, and ſo a Million of Pounds Sterling *per Annum* for ever, and more on the Return of Trade, without an Officer more in the Revenue, or any one Perſon in *England* burthened or uneaſy thereat, but Foreigners, at the End, pay the Whole; which Money never will be brought to *England* on any Account, except by this Scheme projected, and would prevent more Murders, Theſts, Robberies and Law-Suits than any Act yet made. If any who can ſee no farther, objects ſuch Sums are not to be raiſed without Oppreſſion, that's why *England* never burthen'd any to pay their Tax but her own Subjects, by Projectors ſeeing no farther. But if I can't make it appear, on due Encouragement, let me be fined One Thouſand Pounds, and impriſoned till I pay it for my Impertinence: I give this from under my Hand, I'll never ſay I am hard dealt by therein. If 'tis not brought from Foreigners, my Scheme lodged this Seſſion with the Honourable Committee, a true Copy is as hereafter will ſpeak for me. Whether any yet could or have come near it, except ſome who cookt up Scraps from my former Writings, to put an effectual Stop to exporting our *Britiſh* or *Iriſh* Wool,

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and Woollen Goods compleatly manufactured in *Ireland* to Foreigners without Charge or Officers, and each Year's Growth of Wool, and how manufactured each Year for ever, under the Inſpection of the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain*, into whoſe Truſt it hath always been thought ſafe to commit all that's valuable to us: And if I have projected that Effectual, I can as aſſuredly, with Advantage to every Subject in *England*, the Million of Pounds Sterling and more, for ever, into his Majeſty's Treaſury from Foreigners: Though I expect no other than that my Scheme lodged will be turn'd in ſome Words hereafter, and put in by ſome ——— To obtain his Majeſty's Bounty, and pride himſelf with mine, not his own Merit, but to publiſh ſuch wrong, I have underneath printed my Scheme and whole Proceedings, that it may be known throughout *Great Britain*, and *Ireland*, and can project to pay off more of the National Debt in Eight, than ever yet was in Thirty-two Years, without an *Engliſh* Subject paying one Penny more towards it than now, and put a final End to Smuggling Silks, Cambricks, *India* Goods, *&c.* Wines, Teas, Tobacco, *&c.*

THIS, through Mercy, I know by Experience in Trade; tho' one of our empty Projectors, who offer'd a Scheme this Seſſions, bred, as he ſays, at *Oxford*, with much better Letters, corrected or found Fault with my Stile, but he may aſſure himſelf I have forgot more in Trade and Buſineſs, than ever he could attain there, or acquire ſince; but for Modeſty I could ſmile ſometimes to hear him, with his Eloquence, talk of Trade; but if there is Fact in what I affirm, I can project, after improved by our truly Wiſe and Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament, 'twould ſoon pay off the Nation's Debts, and fill his Majeſty's Coffers: And that by Foreigners, and by our Trade in a little Time make *England*'s Enemies fear, and know *England* had regained her antient Ballance of Power, and command her Enemies to accept her Plans and Accommodations, eſpecially as they are juſt and reaſonable; and at home expell thoſe Jealouſies of Court and Country Parties, as if the Court and

Country

Country were Enemies: God forbid, but that his Majesty King *George* should reign in the Affections of every Subject in his Dominions; tho' it astonishes his Majesty's and Nation's Friends to see an effectual Scheme rejected, and weigh'd, but by so few, and talk'd of a Ten Miles Registry, bring in *Irish* Yarn Duty-free; an effectual Way to ruin *England* at once: I can make appear A SCHEME,

PROJECTED by the Persons intrusted and recommended by the Manufacturers in their Addresses and Petitions, from the Cloathing Parts of *Great Britain*, &c. to prevent that matchless Evil of exporting our *British* and *Irish* Wool and Woollen Goods, compleatly manufactured in *Ireland*, to Foreigners, humbly offer'd the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, without making an Officer more in the Revenue, or puting his Majesty or Nation to any Charge.

THAT an Authority be given the several Members of Parliament for the Time being, throughout *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, Dominion of *Wales*, Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, the Islands of *Guernsey* and *Jersey*, and the *Isle* of *Wight*, that the Quarter Sessions before chooſing Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor, in their several Counties, do direct their Summons to each Parish within the several Counties, whereto they belong, impowering them, that on the same Day they choose Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor, they proceed also to make Choice of a fit and able Person in the Woollen Manufacturies, for Character and Knowledge in Trade, to serve as Clerk and Register, to act and attend from Seven o'Clock in the Morning 'till Twelve at Noon; and from Two in the Afternoon 'till Five in the Evening, under Pain of ——— on Refusal of the said Office, to register all what Wool is grown in, brought in, or sold out and manufactured in the said Parish, as hereafter set forth; and in case no Manufacturers reside in the said Parish, to choose some other fit and able Person dealing, &c. with an Authority to the Church-Wardens, Overseers, and Vestry to inspect that no Fraud is com-

committed; and at the End of every Year the ſaid Regiſters of every Pariſh ſhall deliver up their Regiſters Accounts of all what Wool grown in, brought in, ſold out, and manufactured in their Pariſh, under Penalty of ——— to one or more of the Members of Parliament for the ſaid County for the Time being; but ſuch Regiſter ſhall never ſerve another Year under certain Penalties ſubmitted to. That the Regiſters of the Wool and Manufactury of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, Dominion of *Wales*, Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, the Iſlands of *Guernſey* and *Jerſey*, and the *Iſle* of *Wight*, may be laid Yearly for ever, before the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament aſſembled, which, as we conceive them more worthy to be intruſted with this, than Officers, mov'd by no other Motive than a Salary, not inferior to the Mines of *Peru* and *Mexico*, if preſerv'd to us; but if given up to Foreigners ſo much longer, as heretofore muſt effect the Freehold of this once flouriſhing Nation, as the Ballance of Trade has been againſt us, 'tis to be fear'd the Ballance of Power in Proportion.

THIS may be objected, Why ſhall a Pariſh have this Trouble without a Sallary, and many Pariſhes where no Manufacturies are ſettled; and how can they be Judges how one Country's Wooll waſtes in Manufacturing more than others, and many Pariſhes where no Wooll grows.

WHICH in Anſwer, Where there is no Manufacturies the leſs Trouble, and another may keep a Regiſter of what's grown in, or ſold out of the Pariſhes, as well as a Manufacturer; and if no Wooll grows in the Pariſh, deſigning Smugglers may bring Wooll there on Sheep's Backs to be ſhorn. I'm ſorry any Man ſhould make ſuch Objections; it either diſcovers his Weakneſs, or worſe Deſigns.

BUT if they had any Love for their Country's Trade or Welfare, or even for themſelves, if they are Sheep-Maſters, the Advance they'd find in a little Time, when Foreigners are out of theſe Stocks they have had from us, as we may obſerve, when the Plague raged in *France* their Goods were prohibited,

Great

Great Britain's and *Ireland*'s Wool was left on Hand to be manufactured at home, Wool roſe from 7 l. per Pack to 11 l. 10 s. and 12 l. per Pack, and the Promotion and Advance of all other Trades would make full Satisfaction for one Year's Service. Never more let their Trades and Callings be what it will.

It's humbly conceived, if that by our Regiſtry we can't make it People's Intereſt to be honeſt, it's next to an Impoſſibility to make Laws to find them ſo, and with humble Submiſſion, conceive it's of much more Advantage to *England*, to let *Ireland* ſhare ſomewhat in our Manufacturies, than thoſe Foreigners, who may be one Day moſt deſirous of our Ruin; for many in *Ireland* are our Brethren, tranſplanted, and not only our Fellow, but good Subjects; from whom when *England* ſhall think proper, we may have Benefit therefrom, when we can't from thoſe Foreigners, who now ſhares a much greater Part of our Trade, than by this Projection they will be enabled, if rightly weigh'd when read, as hereafter more plain, we ſhall pleaſe *Ireland* ſo as to have their Wool, which Foreigners now have, and leſſen their Manufacturies of what it is now, if *England* ſhall think proper, by this Scheme, tho' I humbly conceive 'twould not be *England*'s Intereſt to cramp them overmuch, in hindering them to rear Perſons, in Reaſon, to the Woollen Manufacturies, tho' if they're reſtrained never ſo much that Way, they would comply, that theſe already bred to it might have the more Employ and Trade: But when the Demand for Cloathing the known World on *England*, would be Buſineſs enough for both Kingdoms; I mean not thereby to transfer our Trade to *Ireland*, but their's to *England*, make that our Spinning-Houſe, and *England* the Shop or Warehouſe to vent it in, Regiſter their Wool and Goods as hereafter ſet forth, from the Sheep's Back, even to a ſingle Garment for a Man or Woman's Uſe; Neither Wool Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or Woollen Goods exported therehence, but to *England*, and that with a Duty ſo moderate, that they might not hurt our *Engliſh* Makers, as their Rents and Proviſions are cheaper than *England*'s, they can afford Goods cheaper, and

yet lay no heavier a Duty than to engage them to a Compliance with a Regiſtry, and put 'em off their pernicious Practices, of ſtudying to ſend their Wool to *France*, and thoſe Species of Manufacturies to *Lisbon*, and export none but to *England*, on Pain of Puniſhment can't be too ſevere, on ſuch Favour and Encouragement; it's not a Home Trade enriches *England*. And every Pack of Wool Foreigners have from *Ireland*, hinders *England* of ſelling three Packs manufactured to Foreigners. Had we been ſo happy to ſtop our Wool this Seſſions, I dare affirm Wool would riſe this Sheer Time, for ſuch who have got Money in Stocks, knows Wool would keep good three Years, and Woollen Goods; and 'twould turn to much better Account to lay it out that Way, if our truly Wiſe and Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament aſſembled, would put too, ſuch Additions, or take from this my Scheme, as to their great Wiſdom ſeem meet.

No Perſon in *Ireland*, in any Branch of the Woollen Manufacturies, who do not the Year round conſtantly keep —— Journeymen, ſhall, on any Pretence, take an Apprentice, or teach any Perſon in any Branch of the Woollen Manufacturies, under Pain of —— to his Majeſty, recovered by Diſtreſs, on Conviction, before the Bench of Juſtices at the Quarter Seſſions, half to the Informer without Deduction of any Superiors, on Pain of —— to ſuch Superiors: Any Perſon following the Woollen Manufacturies in *Ireland*, who do conſtantly the Year round keep —— Journeymen, he ſhall take one Apprentice but no more at a Time; and he for no ſhorter Space than ſeven Years, and any Apprentice who does not ſerve out the full Term or Space of ſeven Years Apprenticeſhip, under no Pretence of buying his Time, on Pain of —— to the Maſter, and Apprentice by Diſtreſs or Impriſonment 'till the ſaid —— is paid, half to the Perſon informing, without Deduction of any Superiors, under Pain of —— to ſuch Superiors, and render'd incapable of ever ſerving his Majeſty.

THAT all Sheep Masters in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, Dominion of *Wales*, &c. —— Shall give a true and just Account into the Register's Office appointed for that Parish, wherein he keeps Flock or Flocks of Sheep in —— Hours after he sheers, of the Numbers of Fleeces; and Weight thereof to enter it in the Register's Book, to the Sheep Master's Account, with a Duty of 5 *s. per* Pound, 16 Ounces, then the Person buying under certain Penalties —— to Buyer and Seller, before the Property is alter'd, enter it to the Buyer's Account, with the Duty aforesaid, discharging the former Properties; and if the Person buying it alters it into another Parish, shall take Permit, and so from Hand to Hand, as it is bought and sold, 'till it's made appear, it's throughly manufactured; then the said Duty fully discharg'd, the Cost of Permit if one Man's Property 20 Packs but 2 *d.* and Registering but 2 *d.* to pay Clerkage.

ALL Skinners, and others buying Sheep Skins, as soon as the Wool is pull'd or drawn off, and dry, shall give a true Account of the Number of Skins it came off, and the Weight thereof, to that Register-Office appointed for that Parish wherein they were pull'd, placing it to his Account, with the Duty aforesaid, of 5 *s. per* Pound, 16 Ounces, 'till Sold under certain Penalties as aforesaid, to Buyer and Seller before the Property is altered, placing it to the Buyer's Account with the said Duty, discharging the former Properties, and so from Hand to Hand, as it's bought or sold as aforesaid, 'till made appear it's throughly manufactured, then fully discharged.

ALL Persons buying Worsted or Yarn under Penalties —— as aforesaid, shall Register it before the Property is altered, in that Register's Office appointed for that Parish where bought or sold, with the Duty aforesaid of 5 *s. per* Pound, 16 Ounces, to the Buyer's Account, and so from Hand to Hand as aforesaid, 'till made appear it's throughly manufactured, then the said Duty fully discharged.

THIS Duty never paid but by Smugglers, to put it out of their Power to be able to come at our Wool, Worſted, or Yarn.

N. B. NO Foreigner to buy Wool, Worſted, or Woollen Yarn, except naturaliz'd, and an Inhabitant in *Great Britain*, or *Ireland*, &c. and a Subject to his Majeſty King *George*, on Pain of ſuch Foreigner forfeiting ſuch Goods to be Prize of the Informer, on Conviction for Encouragement before two Juſtices of the Peace, the Maſter Regiſter, who ſhall attend and judge the ſame —— Hours warning, and deliver it over to the Informer, without any Charges, Stoppage, or Deductions of any Superiors, on Pain of ſuch Superiors forfeiting 1000*l.* and being render'd incapable of ever ſerving his Majeſty, and ſuch Foreigner impriſoned for Life.

IT 's humbly ſubmitted to, that as many Ports be open for exporting or importing Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or what Species of Woollen Goods manufactured in *Ireland*, to encourage fair Traders for Eaſe of Carriage, as to your Honours great Wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet.

NO *Iriſh* Owners ſhall freight with Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or any Species of Woollen Goods manufactured in *Ireland*, on any Account whatever, on Pain of Forfeiture of ſuch Veſſel and Cargo for Encouragement to be the Prize of the Informer, on Conviction, before two of his Majeſty's Juſtices of the Peace, and the Maſter Regiſter, who ſhall attend and judge the ſame on —— Hours Summons, and delivered up to the Informer, on Conviction, without any Charge, Stoppages, or Deductions by any Superiors, on Pain of 1000*l.* to ſuch Superiors, and being rendered for ever incapable of ever ſerving his Majeſty, and the Perſons found on Board ſuch Veſſel proſecuted as in Caſe of Felony.

N. B. THAT all ſuch Veſſels belonging to *Engliſh* Owners, ſhall be firſt regiſtered with Security, well known

known for Character and Fortune, worth 4000 *l.* in the Regiſter's Office in that Sea-Port in *England* wherein the Owners do dwell, the better to know their Circumſtance and Dealing, and then ſuch Veſſel ſhall ſail Coaſt-Way as conſign'd, after clearing his Majeſty's Cuſtom-houſe, or to *Ireland*, and freight with Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or what Species of Woollen Goods manufactured in *Ireland* to be brought hear to *England*, as to your Honours in your great Wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet: Humbly ſubmitting that ſuch Veſſels ſhall Regiſter all what Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or what Species of Woollen Goods ſhe freights withal in that Regiſter's Office, from that Town in *Ireland* ſhe exports it from, the Coſt for the Regiſter is humbly ſubmitted to; the ſaid Veſſel charged with the Duty of 5 *s. per* Pound, 16 Ounces, for all ſuch Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or manufactured Goods ſhe freights withal, as they take Licence, Cocket, and Clearance for diſcharging the former Proprietors; and there remain 'till Account arrives from ſuch Regiſter it was to be imported to; and then ſuch Regiſter placing it with the ſaid Duty to thoſe conſigned, to diſcharging the ſaid Veſſel, and ſo from Hand to Hand as aforeſaid, as it's bought or ſold, 'till made appear it's manufactured, then fully diſcharged.

An Account the laſt Day of every Month ſent by the Maſter Regiſters where ſuch Goods were imported, to all Maſter Regiſters from whence exported, the Ship's Maſters and Merchants Names, with juſt Returns of their Bills of Lading, which by comparing with the Regiſter's Books from whence exported, will make appear if any is Run, allowing a reaſonable Time for Preformance of the Voyage, humbly ſubmitted to any Ship miſſing the Bail who regiſtered, here proſecuted, all Proſecutions at his Majeſty's Charge, and Poſtage free on this Affair.

If made plain appear ſuch Veſſel was wreck'd at Sea, if it ſhould happen on any Shore out of his Majeſty's Dominions, they ſhall not break Bulk, but if they cannot ſave the Veſſel, or bring her off, nor none of his Majeſty's Subject's Ships nigh, to ſuccour her,

if

if it can be done with Safety to their Lives, they ſhall ſet Fire to her, and burn the Cargo, that it might not fall into foreign Hands, on Pain of they and their Bail being proſecuted as if illegally exporting it. More can be projected to take off thoſe burthenſome Taxes of Soaps, Candle-Light, *&c.* as Encouragement met without an Officer made in the Revenue, and brought in from Foreigners.

It's humbly ſubmitted in Caſe a War ſhould hereafter break out, no Ship laden with Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or any Species of Woollen Goods manufactured in *Ireland*, not to ſail without Convoy, and ſhe to obey ſailing Orders, under certain Penalties, to prevent their Deſign with *French* Paſſes to run into their Hands, under Pain of ſhe and her Bail being proſecuted, as if illegally exporting it.

It's humbly ſubmitted, that when three Ships or more is freighted with Wool, Worſted, Woollen Yarn, or any Species of Goods manufactured in *Ireland*, on —— Days Summons, to the Captain of ſuch of his Majeſty's Ships ſtationed as Convoy for ſuch Ports, ſhall ſail the next fair Wind offering, as the Merchants Ships requires, under Pain of ſuch Captain of his Majeſty's Ship, being rendered incapable of ever Serving his Majeſty, and ſuch Merchants to recover Damages, for what they ſuſtain by his Neglect, by Proſecution at Law, at his Majeſty's Charge ſuch Proſecutions.

I would humbly beg my Readers, if I have been miſrepreſented, to make it an Exciſe under any Pretence, weigh my Scheme projected, and after judge this Million of Pounds Sterling; no, I would humbly offer to rid the Nation of this heavy Exciſe they groan under, of Soap, Candle-Light, *&c.* which Money will never be brought into *England* but by this Scheme. Again, I would intreat every Landed Gentleman in *England*, firſt to examine, what did Wool give formerly, before Foreigners ſtole our Wool and Trade from us, and when the Plague raged in France, 12 and 16 l. per Pack, and they will be ſenſible this Year as well

as of latter Years, Wool will not yield current half that Price. Again, consider what low Price Provisions are at, caused by our poor Labourers Want of Employ; for those vast Numbers, when employed, consume the much greater Part: Then 'tis discernable, by giving up our Woollen Trade, they also give up half the Profits of their Lands.

SOME empty Projectors, as well as others of more Note, talk to lower *English* Labour, is expedient to go to Market as cheap as Foreigners, I can't say what such are ——— or Enemies to his Majesty and Nation, to lower Wages, lessen his Majesty's Revenues, as well as the Rents of Lands and Houses; for *England*'s Labour is so low already, they can't earn, if fully employ'd, scarce the Necessaries of Life, which if on the contrary they had more Wages and constant Employ, 'twould make for his Majesty's Interest as well as the Landed; 'twould ease Parish Rates; for it's those, when they can earn Wages and have constant Employ, consume the far greater Part of Provisions; and if we keep our Wool to be manufactured at home, how could Foreigners rival us in our Manufacturies, by under-selling us in Foreign Markets? I tell such, Foreigners would be forc'd to buy their own Cloathing of us, and at our own Price; this could do us no Harm, what Wages Labourers had, since Foreigners would be forc'd of Necessity to buy of us, then consequently pay for Labour; by this Means we should again export English Labour, bring Wealth to the Nation, and that from our Enemies.

WE would beg you, who are our Brethren in Trade, to inform yourselves by your Representatives in Parliament, when they return Home, whether these were not the Way of our Proceeding, first as you desired us by Charter and Registry, to stop exporting our *British* and *Irish* Wool, *&c.* as you had the Scheme thereof printed and published in a blue Book, at our Charge, with printed Letters, next printed the Case of our Woollen Manufacturies. There was last Sessions before this, a Scheme made up by Colonel *George Read*, Esq; then Member in Parliament for *Tewksbury*,

Tewkshurs, and others, to make T[illegible] not according to your Mind, or ours, but we would willingly have Wool stopp'd to be manufactured at Home, on any Rate those Proceedings, we presume, you have had in Print, so would not reprint them to swell this to a Volume, or make it dear, but if any of the Trade is minded to have of them, send to Mr. *Samuel Webber*, at his House over-against the *Bell*, Back of the Borough, near *Three Crown Court*, and he will reprint them, and the Objections answer'd, and delivered at the Parliament Door, and all our former Proceedings in this Affair, so that any City or Town of Trade, send to him what Quantities each would have, and they shall be reprinted, the Charge of which will not come to above 2 *d.* or 3 *d.* or thereabout, at most, to satisfy any who are Curious, or have not seen them, as we have been, at all the Charge hitherto, of Printing and Carrying it on; 'tis hard to have *Samuel Webber* be at such farther Charge by himself: But would desire as many as this small Treatise shall come to your Hands, as you approve of our Proceedings, by endeavouring to stop exporting Wool 'till manufactured, speak to your several Representatives, in what Manner you would pray them to effect it in, as in this our Vindication Men of Honour deem'd us designing Men, one telling us the Trust would be thought in Charter too great to repose in Trade, to shew we were designed for the Nation and Trade's Good, and no base selfish Interest to ourselves, by Consent we projected this Scheme here printed, where never one of us desires Place, or Profit therein, but in Common, with our Brethren in Trade, tho' we spent our own Money: This small Treatise is the very Truth, and Means we pursued in this Affair, according to the Trade's Desire; and lest any should reprint it and impose any Falshoods on the Trade, accept of none as our Proceedings, but such as is signed by *Samuel Webber* in Writing, for many in our Trade knows his Hand, we are your Love, *&c.*

F I N I S.

Tewksbury, and others, to make Trial for three Years, not according to your Mind, or ours, but we would willingly have Wool ſtopp'd to be manufactured at Home, on any Rate thoſe Proceedings, we preſume, you have had in Print, ſo would not reprint them to ſwell this to a Volume, or make it dear, but if any of the Trade is minded to have of them, ſend to Mr. *Samuel Webber*, at his Houſe over-againſt the *Bell*, Back of the Borough, near *Three Crown Court*, and he will reprint them, and the Objections anſwer'd, and delivered at the Parliament Door, and all our former Proceedings in this Affair, ſo that any City or Town of Trade, ſend to him what Quantities each would have, and they ſhall be reprinted, the Charge of which will not come to above 2 *d.* or 3 *d.* or thereabout, at moſt, to ſatisfy any who are Curious, or have not ſeen them, as we have been, at all the Charge hitherto, of Printing and Carrying it on; 'tis hard to have *Samuel Webber* be at ſuch farther Charge by himſelf: But would deſire as many as this ſmall Treatiſe ſhall come to your Hands, as you approve of our Proceedings, by endeavouring to ſtop exporting Wool 'till manufactured, ſpeak to your ſeveral Repreſentatives, in what Manner you would pray them to effect it in, as in this our Vindication Men of Honour deem'd us deſigning Men, one telling us the Truſt would be thought in Charter too great to repoſe in Trade, to ſhew we were deſigned for the Nation and Trade's Good, and no baſe ſelfiſh Intereſt to ourſelves, by Conſent we projected this Scheme here printed, where never one of us deſires Place, or Profit therein, but in Common, with our Brethren in Trade, tho' we ſpent our own Money: This ſmall Treatiſe is the very Truth, and Means we purſued in this Affair, according to the Trade's Deſire; and leſt any ſhould reprint it and impoſe any Falſhoods on the Trade, accept of none as our Proceedings, but ſuch as is ſigned by *Samuel Webber* in Writing, for many in our Trade knows his Hand, we are your Love, *&c.*

FINIS.